

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY H:ASCHNEE:FMT

APPROVED BY EA:PCHABIB

S/S-O: PJOHNSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS:MASS, CB

SUBJECT:CAMBODIAN SUPPLEMENTAL -- MARK-UP OF THE FOREIGN
AID APPROPRIATION BILL

1. AT THE SUGGESTION OF CHAIRMAN PASSMAN, THE FOREIGN
OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE TODAY AGREED TO DEFER WITHOUT
PREJUDICE ACTION ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR
CAMBODIA UNTIL SUCH TIME AS ACTION IS TAKEN THROUGH THE
REGULAR AUTHORIZATION PROCESS.

2. THERE WAS NO VOTE ON THE ISSUE, BUT IT REPORTEDLY WAS
CLEARLY THE CONSENSUS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE. WE ARE INFORMED
THAT THERE PROBABLY WAS A SLIM MAJORITY IN THE SUBCOMMITTEE
IN FAVOR OF SUPPLEMENTAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR CAMBODIA,
BUT THAT THE MEMBERS COULD SEE GREAT DIFFICULTIES IN THE
RULES COMMITTEE AND THROUGHOUT THE LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE
IF THEY ATTEMPT TO CIRCUMVENT THE AUTHORIZATION PROCESS.
THE COMMITTEE ALSO HEARD A REPORT THAT CHAIRMAN INOUE
OF THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HAD INDICATED HE
WOULD NOT BYPASS THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

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3. BEFORE PROCEEDING TO THE MARK-UP OF THE FOREIGN AID APPROPRIATION BILL THIS AFTERNOON, THE PASSMAN SUBCOMMITTEE SPENT FIVE AND ONE-HALF HOURS LISTENING TO AND QUESTIONING

THE HOUSE DELEGATION WHICH RECENTLY TRAVELED TO VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB WAS ALSO INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CLOSING HOUR OF THAT DISCUSSION. ON BEHALF OF THE MAJORITY OF THE MISSION, REPRESENTATIVE MC CLOSKEY PROPOSED ADDITIONAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR CAMBODIA AGGREGATING \$116.7 MILLION TO COVER THE 75 DAYS UNTIL THE RAINY SEASON IS EXPECTED TO RETURN. MOST OF THE DISCUSSION AFTER LUNCH APPEARED TO HINGE AROUND THAT PROPOSAL. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB WAS QUESTIONED CONCERNING NEGOTIATION EFFORTS.

4. IN SUM, THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IS MOVING AND WE ARE STRESSING URGENCY OF ACTION. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED. WE CONSIDER THE WILLINGNESS OF THE RECENT DELEGATION TO CAMBODIA TO SUPPORT ADDITIONAL MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO CAMBODIA TO BE ENCOURAGING. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LAW, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE048752
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ASCHNEE:FMT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750076-0242
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750380/aaaactxr.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBODIAN SUPPLEMENTAL -- MARK-UP OF THE FOREIGN AID APPROPRIATION BILL
TAGS: MASS, US, CB
To: PHNOM PENH
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006